



County of Los Angeles **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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October 30, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
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Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

WILDFIRE STATUS REPORT AS OF 11:00 A.M.

The Los Angeles County Operational Area Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) remains activated and in close contact with affected cities, including Claremont and Santa Clarita. The Emergency Operations Centers for the cities of Los Angeles, La Verne, and Santa Clarita are now closed. Regular contact continues with the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the American Red Cross.

The Presidential disaster declaration triggers the release of federal funds to assist in the recovery from these wildfires. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) holds daily conference calls with OES to discuss the various types of assistance that will be provided. I will advise your Board as soon as the state provides a definitive list of the State and Federal programs.

STATUS OF THE FIRES

The information recorded below is based on the National Incident Reporting System dated October 30, 2003 and the Los Angeles County Fire Activity Update.

The Verdale fire has burned 8,650 acres and is one-hundred percent contained. The estimated fire fighting cost for Los Angeles County is \$2.4 million.

The Piru fire in Ventura County is now moving in an easterly direction, and is within approximately one mile of the Los Angeles County line. This location is in a wilderness area, west of Piru Lake, near the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. Los Angeles County Fire is keeping in constant coordination with the Piru Incident Command because of its proximity to Los Angeles County.

The Grand Prix fire has consumed over 91,207 acres and is seventy percent contained. There have been sixty-five homes destroyed in the Claremont area. The estimated fire fighting cost for Los Angeles County is \$13 million.

Due to the change in wind direction, the Simi fire continues to move east towards Interstate 5. There are no evacuations in place at this time. Aggressive structure protection in the air and on the ground yesterday prevented any loss of homes in the Stevenson Ranch area. Los Angeles County Fire continues to stage an aggressive defense and offense utilizing air and ground forces to keep the fire north of Porter Ranch and west of Interstate 5. To date, the fire has consumed over 106,950 acres and approximately 20,765 of them are in Los Angeles County. The fire is forty percent contained. There have been sixteen homes destroyed in Ventura County. No structures have been lost in Los Angeles County as a result of the Simi fire. The estimated fire fighting cost for Los Angeles County is \$4.8 million.

The shelter at College of the Canyons, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road in Santa Clarita, closed last night at 8:00 p.m. Red Cross shelter staff remain on standby at the request of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Four school districts in the City of Santa Clarita (William S. Hart, Saugus, Newhall, and Sulphur Springs) have been closed.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Below are reports of activities of other County departments.

Sheriff

The Sheriff's Department continues to coordinate mutual aid response for law enforcement, conduct evacuations, and provide security in the evacuated areas. The Sheriff's department operations center (DOC) remains activated and continues to monitor the situation and deploy staff, as needed. They also continue to conduct arson patrols in the affected areas.

The Lost Hills and Santa Clarita Valley Stations have de-activated their station emergency operations centers as of 10:00 p.m. last night. Sheriff Area Command Teams have turned control over to local station command. The Sheriff's Department Operations Center continues to monitor fire activity in the Stevenson Ranch Area.

Probation

The Probation Department continues to be on fire watch at their facilities located in Sylmar, Santa Clarita, and Lake Hughes.

Public Social Services (DPSS)

On Monday, October 27, 2003, DPSS activated the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) At-Risk Client emergency response plan. All at-risk (IHSS recipients identified as residing in the impacted fire areas) were contacted to ensure their pre-identified needs are being met and adequate social support systems are in place. To date, no problems have been reported. DPSS is starting recovery planning meetings with key county departments, local and state agencies, and non-profit organizations including Emergency Network Los Angeles (ENLA).

Animal Care and Control

Animal Care and Control remains on stand-by to be deployed to the Santa Clarita area, if needed. Their emergency operations center in the Agoura Shelter remains on a low-level activation. The sheltering site at Pierce College closed yesterday at noon. All 11 remaining horses were picked up by their owners. Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control Equine Response Team volunteers responded to the Stevenson Ranch area at 2:00 p.m. yesterday to assist with the evacuation of large animals. Eleven cows are currently being sheltered at the Peter J. Pitchess detention facility in Castaic. Due to the fact that the animal shelters in San Bernardino and San Diego Counties are now full, the Department is opening all six of its animal shelters to affected residents in those counties, as well as Los Angeles County, who need to shelter small animals. These shelters will remain open until further notice.

Health Services

The Department of Health Services released an Extreme Caution Advisory on October 29, 2003 stating that the poor air quality continues due to smoke from wildfires. Health officials recommend residents take precautions to reduce their exposure.

Mental Health

The Department of Mental Health continues to operate its toll free 24-hour hotline at (800) 854-7771 and is receiving an increased number of calls. Medical Director, Dr. Roderick Shaner, has given interviews on disaster mental health issues to numerous local radio and news stations. The Department is working with Tri City Mental Health to assess the need for crisis counseling and long term mental health referrals in the Claremont area. The Department is assessing the need for mental

Each Supervisor
October 30, 2003
Page 4

health services in the Santa Clarita and Simi Valley areas. Department of Mental Health is providing mutual aid support to San Bernardino County Department of Mental Health. The Department will be providing mental health support to the County/State/Federal Local Assistance Center in Claremont when it opens tomorrow. Department contract agencies remain on standby. The Department is on a heightened alert and continues to remain in close communication with key local and state agencies to determine needs for services.

RECOVERY PLANNING

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released a toll-free telephone registration number, (800) 621-FEMA, for victims to apply for Federal Disaster Assistance. INFOLINE has information about services available on the County Public Information Hotline at (800) 980-4990.

A County/State/Federal Local Assistance Center (One-Stop Center) is being established at the Alexander Hughes Community Center, 1700 Danbury Road in Claremont today and will officially open tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. OEM is working closely with the Fifth Supervisorial District, the City of Claremont, and OES to rapidly activate the center with an array of local, state, and federal services.

My staff and I will keep you informed with daily reports for the near future.

DEJ:CP
SS:cm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Emergency Management Council
EMC Steering Committee
EMC Subcommittee